

22 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Congressional Reaction to Intelligence Reorganization

1. J. Fred Buzhardt, General Counsel, Department of Defense, called me today to say he had spent considerable time with Senator Stennis and Mr. Braswell talking about the intelligence reorganization. He believes he has them convinced that the President's plan is legal in all respects and does not require legislation or action under the Government Reorganization Act.

2. Mr. Buzhardt said Senator Stennis and Mr. Braswell expect two aspects to be the most troublesome. In connection with the net assessment provisions, Senator Symington is promoting the theory that the Net Assessment Staff will, in effect, be making the foreign intelligence estimates. Mr. Buzhardt pointed out that while that staff may note gaps or deficiencies it has no authority to change substantive material of the intelligence community's contributions. Senator Symington is also pressing hard on the question of delegation to the DDCI, saying in effect this puts a military man in charge of military operations, such as those in Laos. Mr. Buzhardt said he countered this with the argument that while the Agency, in accordance with policy directives, was furnishing money, personnel, and expertise, the actual war in Laos was under the direction and control of the Ambassador there, and General Cushman was, therefore, in no way running a war through CIA.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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Intelligence Reorganization"

cc: DCI
DDCI
Executive Director-Comptroller
Mr. Tweedy
Legislative Counsel